July 9, 2004

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

04-31

Suspicious Object Found Near Moose Visitor Center

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced that a suspicious object - an 8 inch galvanized pipe with caps on both ends - was discovered by a park employee near the Moose Visitor Center this morning, Friday, July 9, around 7:50.

The park employee reported discovery of this object to park rangers who then examined the object, confirmed that it could potentially be an explosive device and immediately activated emergency response protocols for the protection of staff, residents and visitors in the area.

Park rangers created a 300-foot closure around the capped pipe and directed traffic away from the immediate area. Concurrently, park officials contacted the Teton County Sheriff's Office and requested that county deputies and the Sweetwater County Bomb Squad respond to the park. Other law enforcement agencies, as well as Yellowstone National Park, were also notified.

As a precautionary measure, park law enforcement and fire personnel were dispatched throughout Grand Teton to look for similar or other suspicious objects. None were found.

Once on scene in Moose, explosives experts analyzed and photographed the suspicious device, and determined that it should be disabled. The entire area in the vicinity of the Moose Visitor Center, the Moose Post Office and Store, and the adjacent roadways were cleared of people and vehicles. Incoming traffic was held at the Moose Junction and outbound vehicles were held at the Moose Entrance Station so that the bomb squad could safely disable the device. This action took place at 1:00 p.m. and no explosives were discovered in the pipe.

Further investigation is currently underway. If anyone has information which could be helpful to this investigation, please contact the park's law enforcement office at 739-3344.

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